

EGYPT & MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

The U.S. Department of State has disbanded its task force on Egypt.

The U.S. Embassy in Tripoli suspended operations today and removed the last U.S. government personnel. Note that this is a suspension of operations, not a break in diplomatic ties. A new Libya Travel Warning was issued, as was a warden message, reflecting this information. Both of these are pasted near the end of this e-mail. The Embassy also issued a warden message about a British evacuation flight from Tripoli on Saturday and a British evacuation from Benghazi by ferry on Sunday, both of which are accepting U.S. Citizens. This message is pasted at the end of this e-mail. The Middle East Situation section of <http://travel.state.gov> has the most recent consular information. The dedicated Congressional site <http://travel.state.gov/congress> remains.

Over the weekend, a revised Travel Warning for Egypt was issued, as was a new Travel Warning for Libya. Travel Alerts were issued for Tunisia and Bahrain. The Situation in Egypt portion of <http://travel.state.gov> has reappeared as the broader Middle East Situation section. Consular inquiries regarding Libya can be directed to LibyaEmergencyUSC@state.gov or 1-202-501-4444. The President announced economic sanctions on Libya soon after the last U.S. chartered evacuation flight left.

LIBYA

- The U.S. Embassy suspended operations today and all remaining U.S. government personnel departed.
- The United States imposed unilateral sanctions on Libya.
- The U.S. charter flight departed Tripoli's Mitiga airport. On board were the remaining American embassy staff, as well as private U.S. citizens and third country nations.
- The U.S.-chartered ferry reached Valletta, Malta at 1450 EST/2050 Valletta.
- Anti-government forces appeared to control parts of Tripoli
- Colonel Qadhafi appeared in Tripoli's Green Square to address pro-government supporters, saying: "Get ready to fight for Libya, get ready to fight for dignity, get ready to fight for petroleum... This nation, we are the nation of dignity and integrity. This nation has triumphed over (former colonial power) Italy."

CONSULAR ISSUES

- The Department of State will continue to assist any U.S. citizens remaining in Libya.
- The UK vessel *HMS Cumberland* departed Benghazi with 220 people on board, including nine U.S. citizens.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

- Security forces killed at least five protesters marching in Tripoli's western Janzour suburb following Friday morning prayers. Police and soldiers deployed in large numbers to search cars along the highway to Mitiga airport, bringing traffic almost to a standstill.
- Rebels are in control of nearly all oilfields east of the Libyan town of Ras Lanuf, with fields and oil terminals still working at 25 percent.
- A coalition of anti-government groups control Benghazi and Misurata. The coalition is providing food, building defenses, and assuring foreign oil firms their wells will be preserved.
- Anti-government forces control Zawiyah, a town 30 miles west of Tripoli.
- In an interview with a Turkish media outlet, Qadhafi's son, Saif al-Islam, said the country would not destroy Libya's oil wells to put down an insurrection.
- The borders with Tunisia and Egypt are open. Approximately 22,000 people have crossed from Libya into Tunisia since February 20. Those crossing are mainly Tunisian, but there are reports of Egyptians, Turks, Moroccan, Chinese, and a very small number of Libyans. The Egyptian border is also open.

BAHRAIN

- Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters filled Manama to boost pressure for political concessions before possible talks to end demonstrations, media report. Demonstrations since February 19 have been peaceful.

EGYPT

- Egyptian soldiers fired in the air and used batons in the early hours of Saturday to disperse activists demanding the cabinet be purged by the country's new military leaders, protesters told the media. Thousands had gathered in Tahrir Square to celebrate two weeks since Mubarak's removal and remind the country's new rulers, who have promised to guard against "counter revolution" of the people's power. After midnight, protesters said the military fired in the air, shut off the light from lampposts, and moved in on protesters to force them to leave the square.
- The February 25 "Friday of Cleansing" demonstrations called for various aims, such as the full dismissal of the Shafik Cabinet, the resignation of certain key holdover ministers, and solidarity with the Libyan people. Crowd size was much smaller than the Friday, February 18 Tahrir demonstration. The demonstration was been peaceful, with many families and children participating.
- In Alexandria, demonstrators congregated at the city's central mosque, in a crowd estimated at about 10,000. After prayers, about 2000 Copts joined the demonstration holding crosses and bibles. Speakers focused on calling for the resignation of PM Shafiq's government and trials of former regime officials.
- During its February 24 meeting the new cabinet apologized for the actions of the former government, and said the new government would partner with the public for a promising future, and engage in frank dialogue with the public. The Cabinet also said it recognized the public is skeptical.

JORDAN

- Around 5000 Jordanian protesters in Amman demanded political and constitutional reforms, according to press. The protests ended peacefully.

IRAQ

- At least 11 people were killed and dozens injured in multiple clashes between security forces and demonstrators, according to press.
- Protesters appeared focused on complaints about government services and corruption.

YEMEN

- One person was killed and at least 25 were wounded as tens of thousands demonstrated for and against the government in Sanaa, Aden, and Taiz, media report.
- President Saleh called for the formation of a government committee to hold talks with protesters, according to press. It is unclear if protesters will regard it as a significant concession.

Travel Warning - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE **Bureau of Consular Affairs - Libya – February 25, 2011**

The United States warns U.S. citizens against travel to Libya and recommends that U.S. citizens in Libya depart immediately. The United States advised the Government of Libya that it has suspended all embassy operations effective February 25, 2011, given ongoing violence and a deteriorating security situation. All official U.S. embassy personnel and their family members have departed. This Travel Warning supersedes the Travel Warning dated February 24, 2011.

The Department continues to reach out to U.S. citizens we believe remain in Libya. The Department is working closely with other governments and multinational corporations to ensure the safe departures of those U.S. citizens who still need assistance. Please direct inquiries regarding U.S. citizens in Libya to LibyaEmergencyUSC@state.gov. Callers in United States and Canada may dial the toll free number 1-888-407-4747. Callers outside the United States and Canada may dial 1 -202-501-4444.

The Department of State urges those U.S. citizens who decide to remain in Libya despite this Travel Warning enroll their stay in Libya through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at www.travel.state.gov, and provide their current contact information and next-of-kin information.

The United States will appoint a protecting power to assist any remaining U.S. citizens in Libya and oversee its property. Please see the Country Specific Information for Libya on the Department of State's website at www.travel.state.gov which will be updated as details become available.

Travel Warning - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of Consular Affairs - Egypt – February 18, 2011

The U.S. Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens to defer non-essential travel to Egypt. This Travel Warning supersedes the Travel Warning dated February 6, 2011, to update information on the ongoing security and political situation in Egypt.

On February 1, the Department of State ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. government personnel and family members from Egypt due to the ongoing political and social unrest. The U.S. Embassy in Cairo remains on ordered departure status, with only emergency personnel remaining. All family members and non-emergency personnel have evacuated.

Due to continuing uncertainties regarding the restructuring of Egyptian government institutions, the security situation remains unresolved. Until the redeployment of Egyptian civilian police is fully restored, police response to emergency requests for assistance or reports of crime may be delayed. The Embassy's ability to respond to emergencies to assist U.S. citizens is also significantly diminished. The Embassy's current staff level reduces the ability to travel to areas outside of Cairo where the level of security remains unclear.

The Government of Egypt has modified the curfew for the country several times. As of February 18, 2011, the curfew hours are from midnight to 6:00 a.m. throughout Egypt until further notice. U.S. citizens should obey curfew orders and remain indoors during curfew hours. Changes in curfew hours are announced widely in local media.

Most airports, including the Cairo airport, are open and operating, and commercial airlines are reporting flight availability. Travelers should remain in contact with their airlines or tour operators concerning flight schedules. U.S. citizens who reside in Egypt should keep their travel documents up to date and maintain sufficient funds on hand to depart by air should security conditions change.

Male dual Egyptian–U.S. nationals who have not completed military service and have stayed in Egypt for more than six months are reminded that they are required to obtain an exemption certificate through the Ministry of Defense Draft Office before they can leave Egypt. The Ministry of Defense Draft Office reports they are open daily to provide exemption certificates. The U.S. Department of State strongly urges U.S. citizens to avoid all demonstrations in Egypt, as even peaceful ones can quickly become violent and a foreigner could become a target of harassment or worse. U.S. citizens who are near demonstrations should remain in their residences or hotels until the demonstrations subside. Security forces may block off the area around the U.S. Embassy during demonstrations, and U.S. citizens should not attempt to come to the U.S. Embassy during that time. U.S. citizens are urged to remain alert to local security developments and to be vigilant regarding their personal security. U.S. citizens should carry identification and a cell phone that works in Egypt.

The U.S. Embassy is open for emergency services to U.S. citizens only until further notice. Visit the [Embassy website](#) to check the latest changes to embassy hours or services. U.S. citizens may call the Embassy's American Citizens Services section at 2797-2301 during business hours, Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For emergencies after business hours and on weekends and holidays, U.S. citizens can contact the Embassy Duty Officer via the Embassy switchboard on 2797-3300. The U.S. Embassy is closed on U.S. federal holidays. U.S. citizens in Egypt are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's [Internet website](#) where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information for Egypt](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Up to date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1- 888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The [Embassy](#) is located at 5 Tawfik Diab Street (formerly known as Latin America Street), Garden City, and Cairo. For emergencies after business hours and on weekends and holidays, U.S. citizens can contact the Embassy Duty Officer via the Embassy switchboard on 2797-3300. The American Presence Post (APP) in Alexandria is closed to the public until further notice. U.S. citizens in Alexandria needing emergency consular services may come to the Consular Section in Cairo during the hours noted above.